

NATIONAL LINCOLN
MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

DRAWER 15

SPRINGFIELD TOMB

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The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

National Lincoln Monument
Association

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

**OFFICE OF THE
LINCOLN NATIONAL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 25th, 1865.**

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Committee of Arrangements appointed by the citizens of the City of Springfield, Illinois, April 24th, 1865, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That Governor Richard J. Oglesby, Lieut. Gov. Wm. Bross, Hon. Sharon Tyndale, Secretary of State, Hon. O. H. Miner, Auditor of State, Hon. Jas. H. Beveridge, Treasurer, Hon. N. Bateman, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hon. J. T. Stuart, Hon. S. H. Treat, Hon. Jesse K. Dubois, Hon. O. M. Hatch, Hon. John A. McClermand, Hon. Wm. Butler, Hon. Jas. C. Conkling, Hon. Thos. J. Dennis, and such others as they may select, constitute a Lincoln National Monument Association, for the purpose of receiving funds and disbursing the same, for obtaining grounds and erecting a monument thereon in Springfield, Ills., to the memory of our lamented Chief Magistrate, Abraham Lincoln.

Resolved, That Hon. James H. Beveridge, Treasurer of the State of Illinois, be the Treasurer of the said association.

Resolved, That all the officers and soldiers of our armies, and the officers, marines and sailors of our navy, at their several camps, stations, forts and hospitals, be requested to make a contribution, for the said purposes, during the second week of May, 1865, or as soon thereafter as possible, and remit by draft, or otherwise, to said Treasurer at Springfield Illinois.

Resolved, That the Councils of the Loyal League throughout the nation be requested to contribute for the purpose aforesaid, at their weekly meeting in the second week of May, 1865, and remit to said Treasurer.

Resolved, That the various boards of trade and chambers of commerce throughout the nation, be requested to contribute dur-

ing the said week, for the said purposes, and remit as aforesaid.

Resolved, That the several lodges of Masons and Odd Fellows throughout the nation be requested to contribute for said purposes at their regular meetings in said week, and remit as aforesaid.

Resolved, That all literary, religious and benevolent associations throughout the land, be requested to contribute at their regular meetings in said week and remit as aforesaid.

Resolved, That the churches of all denominations throughout the land be requested to take up a collection on the second Sunday in May, 1865, for said purposes and remit as aforesaid.

Resolved, That the colored population of our country to whom our lamented Chief Magistrate was so generous a benefactor, be requested to contribute during said week, or as soon thereafter as convenient and remit as aforesaid.

Resolved, That every individual who reveres the name of Abraham Lincoln, and who may desire to act separately be requested to contribute during said week, or as soon thereafter as convenient, and remit as aforesaid.

Resolved, That the National Banks and Post Masters throughout the nation be the agents of said association for remittance of contributions.

Resolved, That the above resolutions be transmitted by telegraph and published in every newspaper in the country as speedily as possible.

JOHN T. STUART, Chair'n.

JAMES C. CONKLING, Secretary.

On the 26th day of April 1865, the Association organized by the appointment of—

RICHARD OGLESBY, President.

JAMES H. BEVERIDGE, Treasurer.

SHARON TYNDALE, Secretary.

CLINTON L. CONKLING, Ass't Secretary.

**JOHN WILLIAMS,
Hon. SAMUEL H. TREAT,
JACOB BUNN, Esq. } Executive Committee.**

The said Association now appeals to you in the most urgent manner to exert all your influence towards the accomplishment of its purposes, by keeping the second week of May next, or the earliest day possible thereafter, prominently before the public as the time to contribute to the erection of a monument to our lamented Chief Magistrate ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Let the nation by one simultaneous movement testify its regard for his exalted character; its appreciation for his distinguished services, and its sorrow for his death by erecting, to his memory, a monument that will forever prove that Republics are not ungrateful.

Most beautiful grounds, already adorned by nature and embellished by art, near the centre of the city of Springfield, have been selected as his final resting place.

His mortal remains now await your response, ere they shall be deposited beneath a monument that shall be worthy of his fame and the affectionate gratitude of a generous nation.

RICHARD J. OGLESBY, President.

SHARON TYNDALE, Secretary.

CLINTON L. CONKLING, Assistant Secretary.

N. B. All National Banks and Postmasters are requested to act as agents to receive and transmit funds. No other agents will be appointed except under Seal with written signatures of the officers.

MRS. LINCOLN has written a letter to the officers of the National Monument Association, notifying them that unless the monument were erected over the President's remains at Oak Ridge, and a deed given to her of the lot on which it was to be placed, she would accept a proposition for the removal of the remains to Washington. Governor Oglesby and ex-Secretary of State Hatch have gone to consult with Mrs. Lincoln at Chicago, on the subject of the location of the monument.

Lincoln Monument Association.

OUT OF THE OLD AND INTO THE NEW.

(From the Illinois State Register, June 2.)

April 24, 1865, preliminary steps were taken to form an association, which led to the organization, May 11, 1865, in the city of Springfield, Ill., of the National Lincoln Monument association. It was done under a law of the state of Illinois entitled "An Act for the incorporation of Benevolent, Educational, Literary, Musical, Scientific and Missionary Societies, including societies formed for Mutual Improvement or for the promotion of Arts," and was approved February 24, 1859. All corporations under that law were limited to twenty years, without any provision for extending the time of their existence. The National Lincoln Monument association was composed of fifteen members, and accomplished its declared purpose in building a monument at the city of Springfield to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, late president of the United States. The association provided for holding annual elections of officers, and although it filled vacancies it never held more than one general election and that was at the organization. The officers were elected for one year, or until their successors were chosen and qualified. Under the latter clause the same president, secretary and treasurer held their offices during the entire twenty years of the existence of the association. The association would have expired by limitation May 11, 1885, without any provision for taking care of the monument it had erected. Meantime the law under which it was organized had been repealed in connection with the enactment of another law on the same subject, with enlarged powers and duties.

Friday, May 1, 1885, pursuant to a call of the president, a meeting of the National Lincoln Monument association was held in the city of Springfield, its main object being to take measures for reorganizing and continuing the association. There were present Gov. R. J. Oglesby, president; O. M. Hatch, secretary; John T. Stuart, John Williams and James C. Conkling, executive committee; S. H. Treat, Jacob Bunn, Milton Hay and John M. Palmer.

After the transaction of some financial business, and overlooking the fact that the two vacancies caused by the death of O. H. Miner and D. L. Phillips had never been filled, the association took notice of another fact or facts that by the removal of Hon. Newton Bateman to Galesburg and Hon. James H. Beveridge to Freeland, both in the state of Illinois, and Judge Charles S. Zane to Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, there were three vacant seats. On motion of Judge Treat, John W. Bunn, Lincoln Dubois and George N. Black were appointed to fill the vacancies thus made.

Mr. Hay offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the fact that this corporation will expire by limitation on the 11th of May, A. D. 1885, it is deemed necessary and expedient to take steps to promote and further the organization of a

new corporation, to maintain, continue and preserve the monument, constructed by this association, and that when such corporation shall be formed, it is further

Resolved, That the president of this association, and secretary under the seal of the corporation, by proper conveyance or assignment, transfer to such new corporation the monument, monument grounds and all other property, effects, money or choses in action, belonging to this association; and further,

Resolved, That the name of such new organization or corporation shall be the Lincoln Monument association.

The following instrument of writing was then submitted in open meeting:

We, the undersigned, all being of full age and citizens of the United States, and of the state of Illinois, certify that we do hereby associate ourselves under and by virtue of that part of an act of the general assembly of the state of Illinois entitled: "An Act Concerning Corporations," approved April 18, 1872, and in force July 1, 1872, which refers to societies, corporations and associations not for pecuniary profit, by the following name and for the purposes herein specified.

ARTICLE I.

This association shall be called "The Lincoln Monument Association," and shall be located at Springfield, Ill.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this association shall be to preserve, repair and take all proper and necessary means to continue in existence the monument heretofore constructed to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, and located at Oak Ridge cemetery, near Springfield, county of Sangamon and state of Illinois, as the successors to the "National Lincoln Monument Association."

ARTICLE III.

This association shall consist of thirteen trustees, and the following persons shall be directors of said association during the first year of its existence: Richard J. Oglesby, S. H. Treat, John T. Stuart, John Williams, James C. Conkling, John M. Palmer, Jacob Bunn, Ozias M. Hatch, Milton Hay, Shelby M. Cullom, George N. Black, Lincoln Dubois and John W. Bunn.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this first day of May, 1885.

Richard J. Oglesby,	[L S]
S. H. Treat,	[L S]
John T. Stuart,	[L S]
John Williams,	[L S]
James C. Conkling,	[L S]
John M. Palmer,	[L S]
Jacob Bunn,	[L S]
Ozias M. Hatch,	[L S]
Milton Hay,	[L S]
Shelby M. Cullom,	[L S]
George N. Black,	[L S]
Lincoln Dubois,	[L S]
John W. Bunn.	[L S]

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
SANGAMAN COUNTY. } ss.

I, Clinton L. Conkling, a notary public in and for the said county, in the state aforesaid, do hereby certify that Richard J. Oglesby, S. H. Treat, John T. Stuart, John Williams, James C. Conkling, John M. Palmer, Jacob Bunn, Ozias M. Hatch, Milton Hay, Shelby M. Cullom, George N. Black, Lincoln Dubois and John W. Bunn, personally known to me to be the same persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act

and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand seal this first day of May, 1885.

CLINTON L. CONKLING,

[SEAL]

Notary Public.

The association then adjourned to meet Saturday, the ninth instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon. In the meantime the original paper, of which the above is a copy, was filed in the office of the secretary of state, who accepted it as the basis upon which he issued the following:

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
HENRY D. DEMENT, SECRETARY OF STATE.

To all whom these presents shall come—
Greeting:

WHEREAS, A certificate duly signed and acknowledged, having been filed in the office of the secretary of state, on the 9th day of May, A. D. 1885, for the organization of "The Lincoln Monument Association," under and in accordance with the provisions of "An act concerning corporations," approved April 18, 1872, and in force July 1, 1872, a copy of which certificate is hereunto attached; now, therefore, I, Henry D. Dement, secretary of state of the state of Illinois, by virtue of the powers and duties vested in me by law, do hereby certify that the said Lincoln Monument association is a legally organized corporation under the laws of this state.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the great seal of state. Done at the city of Springfield, this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five and of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and ninth.

HENRY D. DEMENT,
Secretary of state.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.,

Saturday, May 9, 1885,

4 o'clock in the afternoon.

National Lincoln Monument association, assembled.

Present—Oglesby, Cullom, Stuart, Bunn (Jacob), Bunn (John W.), Williams, Conkling, Hay, Dubois, Black and Hatch. Absent—Treat and Palmer.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mr. Hay submitted a deed of conveyance from the National Lincoln Monument association, which was read and approved, and the president was directed to sign the same and the secretary to countersign it, and affix the seal of the National Lincoln Monument association, which was done. It was then duly acknowledged on the part of the president and secretary, before Clinton L. Conkling, a notary public. The president was then directed to deliver said deed to the Lincoln Monument association, when its organization is completed.

All the arrangements for the change from the old to the new being finished, Hon. John T. Stuart offered the following

preamble and resolution, which was adopted:

WHEREAS, The National Lincoln Monument association will terminate its legal existence by limitation to-morrow, and that being Sunday,

Resolved, That it now adjourn *sine die*.

Mr. Stuart then made a brief statement of the situation, and that it was then in order to organize under the new certificate received from the secretary of state. On motion of Hon. J. C. Conkling, it was

Resolved, That the gentlemen present who are named in the certificate from the secretary of state, proceed to the election of officers for

THE LINCOLN MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

The election terminated in the choice of President—Gov. R. J. Oglesby.

Vice President—United States Senator S. M. Cullom.

Secretary—Hon. O. M. Hatch.

Treasurer—John W. Bunn.

On motion of Senator Cullom, it was

Resolved, That the executive committee of the old association, Stuart, Williams and Conkling, be the executive committee of the new one, and that George N. Black and John W. Bunn be added to that committee.

As they were about to proceed to other business, the custodian of the monument, who had been present during the entire meeting, asked permission to speak, which was readily granted. He then said that nearly eleven years ago he had been appointed by the National Lincoln Monument association, custodian of the monument, that he had been on duty without intermission during all that time, but by the termination of the existence of that association he found himself an orphan.

Hon. John T. Stuart, who, as chairman of the executive committee, had directed the movements of the custodian, and received all his reports, taking what the custodian had said as it was intended, merely as a hint that they were about to overlook the custody of the monument, arose and said in substance, that it was a self evident truth that the Lord had made J. C. Power for that special purpose and asked that by common consent of the members he be continued custodian of the monument under the new organization, which was agreed to.

The following offered by Mr. Hay, was adopted:

WHEREAS, This organization has been effected for the purpose of taking care of the property of the National Lincoln Monument association, whose corporate existence is about to expire; and for the further purpose of continuing the trusts and objects for which the said National Lincoln Monument association was formed; and

WHEREAS, Said association has by its president, tendered a deed to this association of all its property and effects, to be held upon the trusts and for the purposes in said deed expressed: therefore,

Resolved, That said deed be accepted, and that the same is hereby directed to be recorded, and that the secretary execute this order.

Resolved, That the president appoint a committee to prepare bylaws for the government of this association and report the same to the next meeting. Messrs. Stuart, Hay and Conkling were appointed said committee.

Adjourned to meet Saturday, May 16, 1885, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Thus the transition was made from the National Lincoln Monument association to the Lincoln Monument association, the latter of which, under the law, may run for ninety-nine years, which is practically making it perpetual.

Procedural

NATIONAL LINCOLN MONUMENT
CUSTODIAN

P. O. Box 500.

Springfield, Ill.

John Carroll Davis,

Memorial Hall,
Lincoln Monument.

Springfield, Ill. Oct. 18 1879

Prof. S. R. Koehler
Managing Editor,
The American Art Review.

Dear Sir - Hon. C. M. Hatch,
Secretary of the National Lincoln
Monument Association, being sick
sends me your note of the 4th instant
with a request for me to answer it.
You ask if there is anything to
report in the way of progress.
Not knowing the extent of the infor-
mation you are already in posses-
sion of, I may as well state what
has been done, and then what is
yet to do. You are, no doubt,
aware that the entire ^{design of} monument
is by Larkin G. Mead. It was
(over)

adopted by the Association Sept. 11-1868. The Association took upon itself the management of the architectural part of the edifice, and on the thirtieth of December that year, entered into a contract with Mr. Mead for him to mould, cast, and deliver all the statuary included in his design; a statue of Lincoln, not less than ten feet high for \$13,700; four groups, one each representing the infantry, cavalry, artillery and navy, for \$13,700 each, and a coat of arms of the United States of America for \$1,500, making a total of \$70,000. It was stipulated in the contract that the work was only to progress as the Association from time to time gave written directions for each particular group or piece of statuary to be made. ^PMay 7-1869, the executive committee was instructed

To request Mr. Mead to proceed with the work on the Statue of Lincoln and the coat of arms of the United States. Ground was broken Sept. 9-1869, and the work so far advanced that when Mr. Lincoln's son Thomas (Tad) died, July 15-1871, his body was ~~placed in one of the crypts of the monument.~~ placed in one of the crypts of the monument. Sept. 19-1871 the remains of President Lincoln were ~~removed~~ ^{from the temporary vault} into the central one of the five ⁵ crypts of the monument intended for the entire family, and at the same time the bodies of his two children, William and Edward, in a crypt between that in which their father was placed on one side and their brother Thomas on the other.

At a meeting of the Association Dec. 11-1871 a resolution was passed authorizing the Executive committee

to invite Mr. Mead to proceed with the work on the infantry group. March 22-1872, the Association gave directions to the Executive committee to have Mr. Mead proceed with the work on the naval group.

The models for the statue of Lincoln and the coat of arms were completed in Florence, Italy, and shipped to America, arriving at the Ames manufactory in Chicopee, Massachusetts, in the latter part of October 1870. The castings in bronze, having been completed, an order was given Aug. 21-1874, by Mr. A. D. Shepherd, the agent of Mr. Mead, for them to be shipped to Springfield, Illinois. They were received by the Executive committee Sept. 24, and on the second of October placed on the monument. On the tenth of the same

month, Mr. Mead was notified of the facts, and ^{that} ~~the~~ statuery was accepted by the Association.

Oct. 15-1874, The National Lincoln Monument ~~Association~~ was dedicated with prayer by Bishop Wayman of the African Methodist Episcopal church, an historical address by Hon. Jesse K. Dubois, Vice President of the Association, and an oration by W. S. Senator and ex-Governor R. J. Oglesby, President of the Monument Association, in presence of 20,000 people including the members of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, who had assembled the previous day in Springfield, for the transaction of business; also the President, Vice President, and one ex-Vice President of the United States, the General

of the U. S. Army, a member of the British Parliament and many other distinguished personages. As the orator closed with the words, "Behold the image of the Man!" the statue was unveiled by two nuns of the order of Saint Dominic, revealing to the assembled thousands the well known features and form in colossal ~~to~~ proportions of the martyred President. The multitude stood a moment in breathless silence followed by a gentle clapping of the hands and a subdued murmur of applause. A dedication poem by James Judson Lord of Springfield was then read. Next in order were ~~to~~ brief addresses by President Grant, Vice President Wilson, Hon. M. F. Linder, Gen. W. T. Sherman and ex-Vice President Calhoun.

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The Naval and Infantry groups
were received early in the Spring,
* and placed in position on the
monument in September 1877.

May 17-1877 a resolution
was passed by the Association,
directing Mr. Mead to proceed
with the Artillery group. A
letter was received by Secretary
Heatch, from him, dated Florence,
Italy, March 4-1879, conveying
to the Association the intelligence
that the group was completed in
plaster.

Sept. 12-1879, the Monument
Association directed Mr. Mead to proceed with
the Cavalry group of Statuary and authorized him
to draw on the Association for \$4,566.66, one
third of the price. When the two latter
groups are placed in position the
monument will be complete according
to the design.

In prosecuting this work the Association has never made a debt, no work has been ordered until they knew where the money was, to pay for it. The state appropriations have been; Illinois, \$77,000; New York, \$10,000; Missouri \$1,000; and Nevada \$500. From citizens of cities; Chicago, \$4,566.66, being one third of the price of the Infantry group; and from citizens of New York city \$13,700, the entire price of the Naval group. When the Artillery and Cavalry groups are placed in position all will be paid for at a total cost of about \$212,000, but that will about exhaust the resources of the Association, and they may be under the necessity of calling on Boston for about \$10,000 to aid in ornamenting ^{seven acres of} the grounds surrounding the monument, as they have had many assurances that such a call would meet with a liberal response.

Artistically I make no pretence at description or criticism and the best I can do for your Hon. Editor is to enclose a series of six stereoscopic views, four of the exterior and two of the interior of the Monument and leave you to make your comments and criticisms.

Very Respectfully Yours,

J. C. Power

This paper, being submitted
to me, I approve it
O. N. ...
... any

1879.

John Carroll Power.
Springfield, Ill.

Oct. 18th.

R

Oct. 21.

" 22.



Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site

The Lincoln Tomb

News of President Abraham Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865 came just six days after General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The celebratory atmosphere that had prevailed as the Civil War drew to a close was replaced with one of shock and grief. As the nation mourned its martyred president, the National Lincoln Monument Association dedicated itself to the task of erecting a fitting memorial in Springfield, Illinois, where Lincoln had lived from 1837 to 1861.

Construction of the monument, which holds the remains of the Sixteenth President, his wife, and three of their sons, began in 1869. It was dedicated five years later. The Monument Association deeded the tomb and surrounding grounds at Oak Ridge Cemetery to the State of Illinois in 1895, and today the Lincoln Tomb is managed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Funeral Service and Burial

The first of many funeral services for the fallen president was conducted at the White House on Wednesday, April 19, 1865. A procession then accompanied the horse-drawn hearse as Lincoln was carried to the Capitol, where he lay in state in the Rotunda the following day. On Friday the president's remains were placed on a special train for the 1,700-mile trip to Springfield. The train also carried the remains of the Lincolns' son, William "Willie," who had died in Washington, D.C., in 1862.

The train stopped during its twelve-day journey for ten services in as many cities before arriving on May 3rd at the Springfield depot. Thousands of mourners paid their last respects as the president lay in state throughout the day and night at the state capitol (now the Old State Capitol State Historic Site). On the morning of the 4th, the long funeral procession journeyed to Oak Ridge Cemetery, where services for the president were conducted. Following a final hymn, Lincoln's casket was placed next to Willie's in the

cemetery's public receiving vault.

The public receiving vault was one of the resting places at Oak Ridge for the president's remains. That vault, at the foot of the hill north of the present tomb, still stands. The following December, Lincoln's remains were moved to a temporary tomb, which was dismantled after he was moved to the partially completed permanent tomb in 1871.

Lincoln Monument Association

The Lincoln Tomb was constructed through the efforts of the National Lincoln Monument Association. Ten days after Lincoln's death, the committee that organized in Springfield to plan his funeral formed the monument association. Illinois Governor Richard Oglesby presided over the small group of the late president's friends and political associates. Once the site was selected (and only after Mrs. Lincoln insisted on Oak Ridge Cemetery), the association focused on raising money for construction.

Appeals to the public brought donations from school children, Sunday schools, veteran groups, and benevolent societies that were supplemented by state funds. As fundraising for the memorial gained momentum, the association turned its attention to the monument's design. In September 1868, the association chose sculptor Larkin Mead's design from 37 submitted by artists. Construction of the \$171,000 tomb began in 1869, and dedication ceremonies were held October 15, 1874. In 1895 Richard Oglesby, the monument association's only surviving member, deeded the property to the State of Illinois.

A Family Tomb

The remains of Mary Todd Lincoln and three of the Lincolns' four children are interred with the Sixteenth President. Edward "Eddie" (1846-1850), who died in Springfield and was buried at Hutchinson Cemetery, was moved to the temporary tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery on December 13, 1865. Eight days later, the remains of the president and his son William "Willie" (1850-1862) were placed in the temporary tomb. All three were moved to the partially completed permanent tomb on September 19, 1871. Thomas "Tad" (1853-1871) was the first family member buried in the permanent tomb. He was interred in the tomb on July 17, 1871, two days after his death. Mary Todd (1818-1882) died in Springfield on July 16, 1882, and was placed, as she wished, next to her husband and children.

Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926), the only Lincoln child to reach adulthood, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., with his wife, Mary Harlan Lincoln (1846-1937), and son Abraham "Jack" Lincoln II. Jack (1873-1890) was interred in the Lincoln Tomb from 1890 to 1930.

Reconstruction

Internal and external deterioration of the Lincoln Tomb has prompted two reconstructions. The first began in 1899 and was completed two years later. At that time the height of the obelisk was increased by 15 feet, and the steel and concrete vault containing the president's remains was buried beneath the floor of the burial chamber.

During the 1930 reconstruction the hallways were created, and a simple red marble stone was placed in the burial chamber to mark the president's grave. Eleven varieties of marble were used for walls and floors. Bronze statues and plaques were also added.

Interior

Engraved names in the burial chamber walls mark the location of the Lincoln family crypts. From the left, surrounding the president's burial marker, are the flags of Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia—the homes of Lincoln's ancestors. In the center stands a United States flag. Next, representing the states where Lincoln lived, are the flags of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. The presidential flag is on the right. Above the window is engraved "Now he belongs to the ages," the words spoken by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton upon Lincoln's death.

Throughout the tomb, bronze statues by Daniel Chester French, Leonard Crunelle, Fred M. Torrey, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Adolph A. Weinman, and Lorado Taft commemorate important periods in Lincoln's career. A biographical sketch of the president and the words of several significant speeches are inscribed on bronze plaques.

Exterior

The 117-foot-tall Lincoln Tomb is constructed of granite quarried at Quincy, Massachusetts. Near the entrance is a bronze bust of Lincoln, the work of sculptor Gutzon Borglum. Tomb designer Larkin Mead created the monumental bronze military statues and the statue of Lincoln on the terrace.

Mead's design has been popularly interpreted as symbolizing Lincoln's role in the preservation of the Union. Representing the Constitution is a plaque featuring the U.S. coat of arms, above which stands a statue of the Sixteenth President. Symbolically, Lincoln stands on the Constitution as the authority for employing the military in defense of the union. The military is represented by heroic statues portraying the infantry, cavalry, artillery, and navy that stand at the corners of the terrace. The union is represented in the names of the states engraved in shields below the statues. The names of 37 states were inscribed in the terrace-level shields at the time of construction; other states' names were included as they were created.

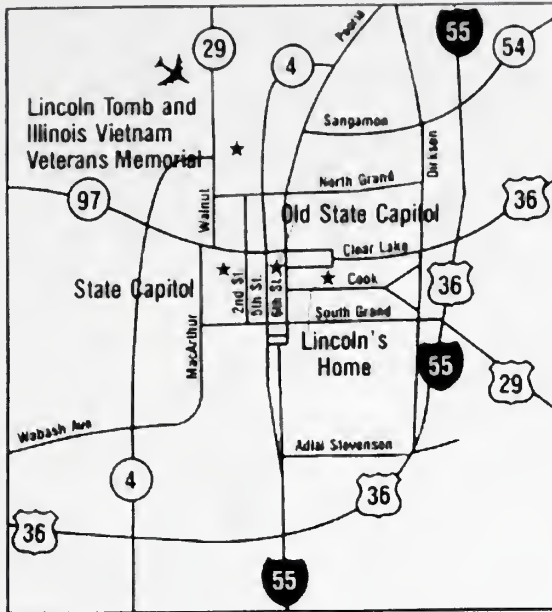
Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located one-half mile west of the Lincoln Tomb. Inscribed in the memorial are the names of 2,973 Illinois servicemen who died or are still missing in the Vietnam War. The memorial may be visited during Oak Ridge Cemetery's daily hours of 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. January through April and October through December. The gates are open May through September from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. For additional information contact Site Manager, Lincoln Tomb.

Information

Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site is open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. It is closed on major holidays. Groups of 25 or more must have a reservation. The interior of the Tomb and the restrooms are handicapped accessible.

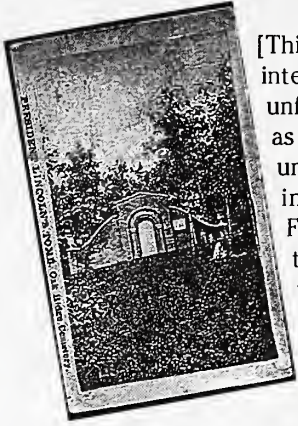
For additional information, write Site Manager, Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL 62702, or phone 217-782-2717.



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URL=http://www.state.il.us/HPA/LincTomb.htm
Last modified: Mar 8, 1996, mah



[This unusual carte recently sold in an internet auction. We were completely unfamiliar with the photograph – listed as “Lincoln’s Tomb.” In fact, it was quite unlike all the images of Lincoln’s Tomb in Springfield we had seen. Fortunately, Dan Pearson, President of the *Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin*, was able to “enlighten” us!]

THE OTHER TOMB

Daniel E. Pearson

While there are many images of the receiving vault at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, and of Lincoln’s tomb after its completion in 1871, there are far fewer known illustrations of the temporary tomb used to hold Lincoln’s body from late 1865 until 1871.

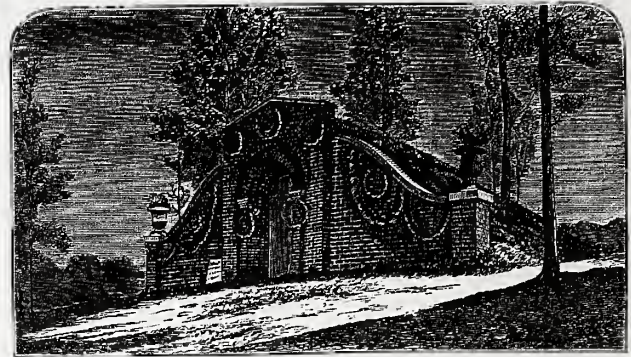
Upon receiving news of Lincoln’s assassination, a hastily formed committee in Springfield immediately set to work in anticipation of the remains of their fallen leader being returned to his hometown. The site chosen by the committee for Lincoln’s tomb was the property of Mrs. Thomas Mather in the center of Springfield, located where the present state capitol building now stands. Workmen immediately began erecting a tomb to receive Lincoln’s body.

When Mary Lincoln heard of the planned burial site she voiced strong opposition. She insisted that the burial take place at Oak Ridge Cemetery, then located at the very edge of the town. Lincoln himself, it seems, clearly stated his preference for a quiet, idyllic setting as his final resting place. After an exchange of tartly worded messages between the Springfield committee and representatives of the Lincoln family, the committee agreed to abandon the Mather site in favor of Oak Ridge. A threat from Mrs. Lincoln to inter her husband in Washington, D.C. or Chicago seemed to convince the committee to accede to her wishes.¹

But Oak Ridge was not prepared to receive Lincoln’s body. On May 4, 1865, the day of Lincoln’s funeral, his coffin, and that of his son, William Wallace, were placed in the public receiving vault. A twenty-four hour military guard was posted there. However, the receiving vault was an integral, actively used part of the everyday operation of the public cemetery. Its use as a long-term repository for Lincoln’s body was not feasible.

In May 1865, the Lincoln National Monument Association was organized for the purpose of creating a permanent tomb for Lincoln and his family. A six-acre plot on the hillside immediately south of the receiving vault was chosen as the site of the proposed monument. The first concern of the Monument Association was to make arrangements to move Abraham and Willie Lincoln out of the receiving vault.

During the summer and fall of 1865, workman labored to build a temporary tomb into the hillside some 50 to 60 yards northeast of the present Lincoln tomb. This temporary vault was covered with earth with a front facade constructed of brick with



stone ornaments. On December 21, 1865, undertaker Thomas C. Smith, under the supervision of the Monument Association, moved the bodies of Abraham and Willie Lincoln to this temporary vault.²

The two bodies remained in this crypt for nearly six years while the design and construction of the permanent tomb was underway. In 1871, Abraham and Mary Lincoln’s youngest son, Tad, died in Chicago of tuberculosis. The Lincoln tomb was far enough along to accommodate Tad’s remains. After his funeral at the First Presbyterian Church, he was placed into a niche in the burial chamber of the tomb on Monday, July 17, 1871.³

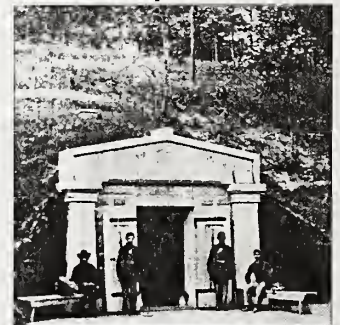
Abraham and Willie joined Tad in the tomb two months later. On September 19, 1871, Thomas C. Smith once again moved the two coffins. Lincoln’s casket was placed in a marble sarcophagus located in the center of the burial chamber, while Willie’s coffin was placed in a niche next to Tad’s in the back wall of the chamber. With the completion of the Lincoln tomb, there was no need to preserve the temporary vault. It was demolished, and the mound of earth was graded to the level of the surrounding hillside.

Long forgotten, the little-known temporary vault has reentered the public eye. Two images recently sold on the Internet auction site eBay. The first was taken by the Springfield photographer F. W. Ingmire, and depicts two young ladies resting near the vault. The Illinois State Historical Library acquired another image of the temporary tomb, taken from a considerable distance to the north of the structure.

Further, the staff at the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site has marked the location of the temporary vault. A bronze plaque has been placed northeast of the tomb along the walkway that surrounds the structure. It offers visitors a brief history of the vault as well as a period illustration. On the hillside, a low granite cenotaph marks the location of the first burial place of the sixteenth President. ☺

Footnotes:

1. Dorothy Meserve Kunhardt and Philip B. Kunhardt Jr. *Twenty Days: A Narrative in Text and Pictures*. (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1965) 248-9.
2. *Oak Ridge Cemetery: Its History and Improvements...* (Springfield, IL: H.W. Rokker, Printer and Binder, 1879) 51-3.
3. Ruth Painter Randall. *Lincoln’s Sons*. (Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1955) 271-3.



The more familiar
Public Receiving Vault.

